

Marshfield Conservation Commission

77th Meeting

8 January, 2014

Members Attending: Annie Reed, Tony Mayhew, Allen Banbury, Steve Fiske, Ed Jalbert, Sara Norton, and Bob Popp

Review of Minutes: December minutes were not available for review.

Treasurers Report: Tony

- \$5,069 in Conservation Fund
- Bob mentioned that the town has an account at Plainfield Hardware and a few other businesses. Bobbi requested that we use it whenever possible to avoid the expense of issuing a check and also paying tax.
- **Annie** will follow up with Bobbi re. other businesses. **Note:** Annie forwarded an attachment indicating businesses to whom the town has issued checks. Unfortunately there is no way to determine whether we have an account. Bobbi suggested we ask at the business or call her.

Martin Covered Bridge:

- Allen purchased tools, hardware cloth and wire to protect the trees
- Tins snips and wire will be left in our storage bin at OSC; Allen has the loppers
- The intent is to paint the larger trees with latex containing sand to deter beaver and to screen the smaller trees this Spring. Allen also purchased staples to hold the screening in place.
- Will also likely need to replace some of the girdled trees which are not likely to survive.

Emerald Ash Borer : Bob attended the presentation in Danville and gave a synopsis

- 1st part of the discussion involved life history of Emerald Ash Borer; typically 1 year life cycle but small percentage of individuals with 2 yrs.
- Prefers green ash followed by other ash species; may also utilize lilac, but uncertain of this
- Just a matter of time before gets to VT although moves very slowly (ca. ½ mile/yr) so most distribution jumps attributable to moving firewood or wood products
- State recommends retaining ash and not liquidating ahead of infestation
- State has grants (up to \$500) for EAB Preparedness Plan. Usually entails ash inventory along roads, plan for removing them when becomes infected, publicizing the recommendations, training. Spread can be slowed by removing infested trees before adult beetles emerge in late May.
- Best symptoms include heavy woodpecker activity, crown dieback, bark splitting revealing serpentine galleries beneath the bark, epicormic shoots, and “D-shaped” exit holes.
- Reason to believe that spread will be slowed by recent cold weather. Larvae winter in cambium just beneath bark; studies indicate up to 80% mortality at temps of minus 20.

- More information at vtinvasives.org and emeraldashborer.info/index.cfm

Annual Report:

- Members provided comments on the draft that Bob submitted
- **Bob** will incorporate them and send to Bobbi. **Note:** this was done as of 9 Jan.

Stranahan Town Forest:

- Select Bd has tabled log job for this winter
- Ed spoke with Dan Kilborn, VLT forester, about stands 23 & 24 which were marked with logging and skidding thru an unmapped wetland
- VLT thought town could treat the unmapped wetlands in 2 ways; log them carefully in winter w/ no skidding, following BMPs or make a determination regarding the intent of the management plan. The uncertainty is whether the intent of the management plan was to avoid all wetlands, including unmapped ones, or to allow careful logging in unmapped wetlands.
- VLT encouraged the Town SB to make a determination of the original intent with input from SSC and MCC.
- Annie suggested approaching the SB to set up a joint meeting at their convenience.
- General agreement that we would need to revise the wetland map prior to the meeting.

Membership:

- Brett will not be seeking reappointment so we need to recommend a replacement
- Everyone agreed that he will be missed and his service should be recognized at town meeting
- Agreed to approach Diana Batzel, Tracey Hamblet, and Nancy Ericson, and determine their interest. Also suggested brainstorming other names. Suggestion included Mimi Aranson and Lincoln Centers
- Decided that members would approach folks they thought might be interested and determine their interest. We would then pass along names of interested parties to the SB for their consideration.

Topics for Next meeting:

- Plan Town meeting display
- Follow up on recruiting a new member
- **Annie** will bring a cake, **Ed** will bring cider to celebrate Brett's retirement from the committee

Submitted by: Bob Popp

Submitted on: 11 Jan 2014

Approved on: 12 Feb, 2014
